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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
10/061,774	02/01/2002	Thomas N. Chalin WCMI-0028		2211	
20558	7590 01/19/2005		EXAMINER		
KONNEKER & SMITH P. C. 660 NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESSWAY SUITE 230			CULBRETH, ERIC D		
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
PLANO, TX	75074		3616		
			DATE MAILED: 01/19/200	5	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary    10/061,774			Application No.	Applicant(s)	<del></del> (				
Examiner  in the MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address  Period for Reply  A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ② MONTH(S) FROM  THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  Substances of time may be available useds the provisions of 37 CFR 1.138(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filled  If the period for reply specified above, the machinum statutory priority within the statutory minimum of lating (20) days will be considered timely.  If the period for reply specified above, the machinum statutory priority of will not be statutory minimum of lating (20) days will be considered timely.  If the period for reply specified above, the machinum statutory priority and will exply and will exply and will exply in SK (6) MONITIS from the enabling date of this communication.  Any reply received by the Office latine than fitter membra after the malling date of this communication.  Any reply received by the Office latine than fitter membra after the malling date of this communication.  Any reply received by the Office latine than fitter membra after the malling date of this communication.  Any reply received by the Office latine than fitter membra after the malling date of this communication.  Status  1) □ Responsive to communication(s) filled on Q2 November 2004.  2a) □ This action is FINAL.  2b) □ This action is non-final.  3) □ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the ments is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.  Disposition of Claims  4) □ Claim(s) 1.5.7.9.39.41.45.47.49 and 53.75 is/are pending in the application.  4a) Of the above claim(s) is is/are withdrawn from consideration.  5ight and the provision of the provisio					V				
Eric D Culbreth   Sol 16	Office Action Summary								
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address − Period for Reply  A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  Editations of ten may be available under the provised under 15 (Fig. 113(e)). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed  Editations of ten may be available under the provised under 15 (Fig. 113(e)). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed  Editations of ten may be available under the provised under 15 (Fig. 113(e)). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed  Editations of ten may be available under the mailing date of this communication.  I have pred for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the subdictory minimum of thirty (20) days will be considered timely.  I have pred for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the subdictory minimum of the mailing date of this communication.  I have pred attent the major than the mailing date of this communication, even filmsly filed, may reduce any sense attent adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(a).  Status  1)⊠ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 November 2004.  2a)⊠ This action is FINAL.  2b)☐ This action is non-final.  3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.  Disposition of Claims  4)☑ Claim(s) 1-5.7.9-39.41-45.47-50 and 53-75 is/are pending in the application.  4a) Of the above claim(s)		•							
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  Editations of time may be available under the provided and of 2 CFR 1.136(d). In no event, however, may a reply be timely field  Editations of time may be available under the provided under the provided of reply specified above. In massimum adultory period will apply and will expire \$100, (b) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication of reply specified above. In massimum adultory period will apply and will expire \$100, (b) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication, even fluority filled, may reduce any search application in the replication of become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).  Status  1)  Responsive to communication(s) filled on 02 November 2004.  2a)  This action is FINAL.  2b) This action is FINAL.  2b) This action is replication is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.  Disposition of Claims  4) Claim(s) 1-5.7.9-39.41-45.47-50 and 53-75 is/are pending in the application.  4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.  5 Claim(s) 1-4.7.9-39.41-45.47-9 and 53-75 is/are allowed.  6) Claim(s) is/are objected to.  9) Claim(s) is/are objected to.  9) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.  Application Papers  9) The gracification is objected to by the Examiner.  10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a)		The MAILING DATE of this communication app	l .	1	·				
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  Ediffusions of time may be available under the provision of 3°C PR 1.13(6). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.  If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum abutation prefet will make apply within the activity printing that (1) (8) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.  If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum abutation prefet will apply and will expire (8) (8) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.  Failure to reply within the set of extended period for reply will, by abutine, cause the application to become ARANDONED GS U.S.C. § 133). Any reply reversely by the Office in the Thin temperature after the malling date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any version provided by the communication (s) filed on <i>Q2 November 2004</i> .  2a)[3] Responsive to communication(s) filed on <i>Q2 November 2004</i> .  2a)[3] This action is FINAL. 2b)[] This action is non-final.  3)[3] Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.  Disposition of Claims  4)[3] Claim(s) <i>1-5.7,9-39.41-45.47-50 and 53-75</i> is/are pending in the application.  4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.  5)[3] Claim(s) <i>1-4.7,9-39.41-45.47-49 and 53-75</i> is/are allowed.  6)[3] Claim(s) <i>3 and 59</i> is/are rejected to.  7)[3] Claim(s) is/are objected to.  8)[3] The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  10)[4] The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a)[4] accepted or b)[6] objected to by the Examiner.  Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  11] The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a)[4] accepted or	Period fo	r Reply		•					
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### **DETAILED ACTION**

# Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

- 1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
- 2. Claims 5 and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Smith et al (US Patent 6,491,314, of record).

Smith et al discloses a vehicle suspension system comprising axle 90, sleeve 362, 366 (Figure 39) clamped on the axle in a clamped position without press fitting (column 15, lines 15-20, where the plates 362, 366 are compressed about the axle, which is not "press fitting", where the axle would be forced through the already joined plates), and the sleeve 360 formed of plates 362, 366 welded in the clamped position. In Figure 39, arm 482 is attached to the axle by welding directly to the sleeve at beads 500. The sleeve in Figure 39 is welded to the axle in at least one opening formed laterally through the sleeve (column 18, lines 42-46). Noting applicant's remarks filed 11/2/04 (bottom of page 17) that Smith et al does not appear to contain any description of how the plates 362, 366 are welded to the axle, Smith et al's welds are in the opening formed laterally through sleeve 360 inasmuch as applicant's disclosed invention (i.e., applicant's drawings do show the weld between the axle and sleeve as being "in" the opening, and in fact page 8, lines 7-8 and lines 16-18 that the weld between the axle and sleeve is "about" the openings and at the lateral ends of the sleeve (if Smith et al's welds are not "in" the openings, this disclosure would indicate that whether the weld is inside the openings or at the ends of the

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sleeve is equivalent for purposes of applicant's invention and for purposes of the claim means by "in" the opening).

## Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-4, 7, 9-39, 41-45, 47-49, and 53-75 are allowed.

#### Conclusion

4. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric D Culbreth whose telephone number is 703/308-0360. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 9:30-7:00 alternate Fridays off.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Dickson can be reached on 703-308-2089. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Eric D Culbreth Primary Examiner Art Unit 3616

Eine Callett

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